Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /075 W
------291813Z 022443 /44

R 290610Z MAR 77 FM AMEMBASSY KABUL TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1971 INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD AMEMBASSY THERAN

CONFIDENTIAL KABUL 2111

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR, AF, IR

SUBJ: STATUS OF AFGHAN/IRANIAN RELATIONS

REF: A. KABUL 0654 B. KABUL 0817

1. DURING MARCH 26 CALL ON MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS "SECRETARY GENERAL" (AND DE FACTO AFGHAN
FOREIGN MINISTER) WAHEED ABDULLAH, AMBASSADOR WAS
TOLD THAT THE AFGHANS ARE READY TO FORMALIZE RATIFICATIONF
OF THE 1973 HELMAND WATERS TREATY BY MEANS
OF AN EXCHANGE OF DOCUMENTSS WITH IRAN. ACCORDING TO
ABDULLAH, THE IRANIANS HAVE BEEN APPRISED OF THE
PRESENT AFGHAN POSITION, BUT HE DID NOT SAY WHAT,
IF ANY, RESPONSE THEY HAVE GIVEN.

2. ABDULLAH WENT ON TO COMPLAIN THAT THE IRANIANS HAD NOT BEEN "FORTHCOMING" WITH PROMISED FUNDS FOR THE TEXTILE AND CEMENT PLANTS IN KANDAHAR. WHEN BILLS HAVE COME DUE THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT HAD TO PICK UP THE TABS. IN ABDULLAH'S ASSESSMENT, THIS IRANIAN FOOT-DRAGGING HAS BEEN CAUSED BY TEHRAN'S ANGER OVER AFGHANISTAN'S PROJECTED CONFIDENTIAL

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CONSTRUCTION OF THE KAMAL KHAN DAM.

3. COMMENT: ABDULLAH'S REMARKS ESSENTIALLY REPEAT THE THEME HE PUT FORTH TWO MONTHS AGO (REEFTEL A), BUT HE CARRIES THE ARGUMENT ONE STEP FORWARD WITH HIS IMPLICATION THAT THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT -- IN CONTRAST JUST TO

POLEMICS IN THE IRANIAN PRESS -- ACTUALLY HAS SOUGHT TO PRESSURE AFGHANISTAN BY WITHHOLDING PROMISED DEVELOPMENT FUNDS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: CONSTRUCTION, DAMS, WATER DIVERSION, BOUNDARY CLAIMS

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 29-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KABUL02111
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00

Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

Expiration:

Film Number: D770107-0761

Format: TEL From: KABUL

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770312/aaaaakau.tel

Line Count: 66 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d8ae01b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION NEA

Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 77 KABUL 654

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 15-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2967634 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: STATUS OF AFGHAN/IRANIAN RELATIONS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, AF, IR

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d8ae01b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009